

Transmitted Via Email

October 16, 2003

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-4-2

SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH

Purpose. To transmit the October Safety and Health Bulletin prepared by Gary Larson, District Conservationist at Caledonia Field Office.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004

### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR THE FAMILY

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities. Both children and adults have to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe.

Motorist should be the most alert on Halloween Night:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At dusk and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents should go over instructions with their children before making their "trick or treat" adventure

- Make sure an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children 12 and under. Know the names of older companions.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters will intend to follow. Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children only to stop at houses that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- Make sure a return time is established before your child leaves.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats before they return home. Review all safety precautions including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.

Costume Designs are important to keep children from becoming hurt:

- Costumes should be loose so warm clothes can be worn underneath.
- Costumes should not be so long that they become a tripping hazard.
- If children are allowed out after dark, costumes should be of light color and reflective tape should be used to make children visible.
- Masks can obstruct children's vision, choosing facial make-up would be a better choice.
- If masks are worn be sure they have large eye holes and nose/mouth openings.
- Bags or sacks carried by children should be light colored or trimmed with reflective tape.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from flexible materials. (Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.)
- Carrying flashlights will help keep children more visible.

Rules children should be reminded of...

- Do not enter unknown homes.
- Walk, do not run from house to house. Do not cross lawns or yards where unknown objects could be a hazard.
- Walk on the left side of the road if there are no sidewalks.
- Make sure all treats are checked before eating.

Remember parents WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: AE